GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4647
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2008
AVAILABILITY OF COINS
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is acute shortage of coins of one rupee and two rupee denominations in the market and there is no demand of the coins of 50 and 25 paisa due to its less use;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (c): Shortages of coins were reported from various parts of the country around second half of the year 2006-07. After this, the minting of coins and their distribution through RBI was accelerated and steps taken to meet the demand. It is also a fact that the demand for 50p and 25p coins is less as compared to coins of Re.1, Rs.2 and Rs.5 denominations. To further redress the problem, the RBI has taken following steps:

1) Fifteen Regional Offices have made arrangements for retail distribution through select Post Offices in addition to the Bank branches.

2) Banks have specially identified around 2000 select branches for distribution of coins. Press releases were issued to inform the public of the same.The names/ addresses of these branches have also been put up on web site of RBI.

3) In addition, the banks as also RBI Issue Offices are holding Coin Melas at market places, village fairs etc.

4) Arrangements for distribution of coins are made to registered Associations of Hotels, retail shops, chemists etc.

5) Coin vending machines have been installed at RBI Issue Offices.Banks have also been advised to identify additional locations at prominent places to install coin vending machines.